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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 06530.0276-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Marc O. SCHURR et al.

Application No. 09/957,451

Filed: September 21, 2001

For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR
FOLDING AND SECURING
TISSUE

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)
) Group Art Unit: 3731
)
) Examiner: Unknown
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached, along with a copy of a Search Report received in the counterpart international application (PCT/US01/29746) to this U.S. application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached 1449 form.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

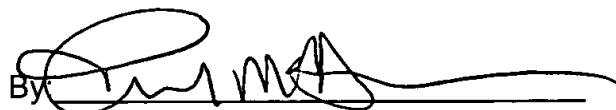
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

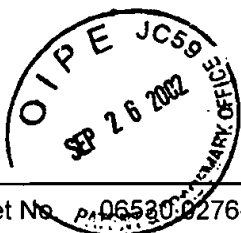
Dated: September 26, 2002

By 
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

OMB No. 0651-0011

Atty. Docket No. 065306276-00000	Appln. No. 09/957,451
Applicant Marc O. SCHURR et al.	
Filing Date September 21, 2001	Group: 3731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,395,030	03/1995	Kuramoto et al.			
	5,571,116	11/1996	Bolanos et al.			
	5,676,674	10/1997	Bolanos et al.			
	6,086,600	07/2000	Kortenbach			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce

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